



Bird Atlas Notyf

CASTLEMAINE NATURALIST

NOVEMBER 1978 30

President: Mrs R. Mills.
Min Sec : Mrs B. Singleton.
Newsletter Ed: Mr E. Perkins.

Gen Sec : Mr M. Winterbottom
Treasurer: Mr L. Bransgrove.

General Meetings are held at the Castlemaine Education Centre (SEC Building, Mostyn St) at 8 p.m. on the second Friday.

Visitors and prospective members are invited to attend the Club's sessions.

THE BIRD ATLAS

The article from the Atlas Newsletter printed overleaf explains very well the purpose of the Atlas.

The aim is to record over all of Australia on an approximately 16 kilometre (10 minute) grid all of the Australian Birds and their nesting habits.

There are three kinds of records required

- (a) Historical Atlas - Records up to the end of 1976
- (b) Main Atlas - current records.
- (c) Unusual records.

HOW TO TAKE PART

"Any bird-watcher may help to collect data."

"To take part, you need not be familiar with all Australian birds, but you are expected to identify accurately all those you record. WHEN IN DOUBT, OMIT."

"We seek an even coverage of 1° blocks for the whole continent, but if possible, pinpoint your observations to sample 10' blocks in each 1° block." (See map in the centre pages).

"In a block, do your best to find and record all species present and all those breeding in it. Try to visit all of the habitats in the block e.g. stream, pond, forest, farmland etc., and where possible, do so at different times of the day and night and at different times of the year."

"Such an intense coverage of a grid block will not always be possible. Casual records made during a short visit to a block or while travelling, particularly in the more remote areas, are also valuable in ensuring that the Atlas truly represents the distribution of birds rather than observers."

"Observations should be entered in notebooks in the field and then transferred to the record sheets, (from which computer cards will be punched). In this way-

- (a) You can check any doubtful observations at leisure
- (b) You will retain in your field notebook a complete record, should you need to fill in an Atlas Unusual Record Report Form.
- (c) You will retain your own personal record of behaviour, population, habitat etc."

Unusual Records The Unusual Record form should be filled out for unusual records and sent in with the Record Sheet.

The Atlas and You

Supplement to RAOU Newsletter 30

The President of the RAOU, Dr. Stephen Davies, introduces the first Atlas Newsletter.

As an undergraduate I was bombarded by enthusiasts about the Botanical Society of the British Isles' latest craze. It was to plot the distribution of the plants of Great Britain using a gridded map. Not only that but it was all going to be done with a computer, then a new word. I doubt if I grasped much of the significance of the analysis plans, nor of the objects of the whole project, but I greatly enjoyed dashing out to odd bits of the British Isles, Galway Bay for example, and recording plants on the neat little cards provided free by the Society. The Atlas of the British Flora was published over ten years ago and has been a cornerstone of the steady planning of nature reserves in Britain, their management and the assessment of damage in such disasters as the Dutch Elm Disease, ever since. It was the first of the biological Atlases, prepared by a co-operative effort of an amateur society. It showed that the job could be done, and dozens of Atlases around the world—frogs, seaweeds, birds, mosses—Atlases of a whole range of organisms in many different countries, followed.

Now our own ornithological Atlas is really under way. For years the Council, the Field Investigation Committee and a host of organisers and helpers in pilot atlas schemes have been saying 'do you think we can do it?', really meaning 'do you think that we shall get funds to do it?' Last year the Commonwealth Government showed us plainly that they wanted this sort of survey done and were willing to fund it. The RAOU got to work in a way that I think it is true to say, it had hardly dreamed possible before, and this year the Field Atlas Scheme has been launched, well supported by Commonwealth money and backed by a massive response to a publicity campaign over the Christmas holidays. Nearly a thousand enquiries were received following that publicity and there is little doubt that this kind of co-operative ornithology fills an empty niche in many people's enjoyment of the bush.

That is a very important point. Atlas work is enjoyable. It helps people to learn more about the beautiful birds around them in an enjoyable way. But that is not just why the Department of Environment, Housing and Community

Development is so keen to help us. They can see great usefulness in the work we are undertaking. It will give Australia a picture of the changing distribution of a group of organisms over the period of European settlement. There will then be a clear factual statement about what birds have declined and what have increased, which have spread and which have retracted their range. This information simply doesn't exist in a form that allows governments—local, state and federal—to assess the priorities of what to do first. What species is in most urgent need of protection, which one is doing well without help. It will also enable locality lists to be compared on a standard basis, so that areas particularly rich in bird species can have priority in reservation.

The Atlas of Australian Birds is the first biological atlas of Australia to be attempted in such detail. Many of the methods appropriate overseas will be in-

appropriate here, but many of the methods we work out will be applied widely to other groups of organisms in

Australia.

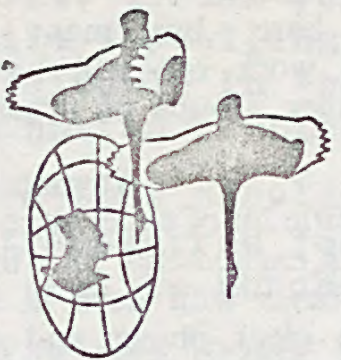
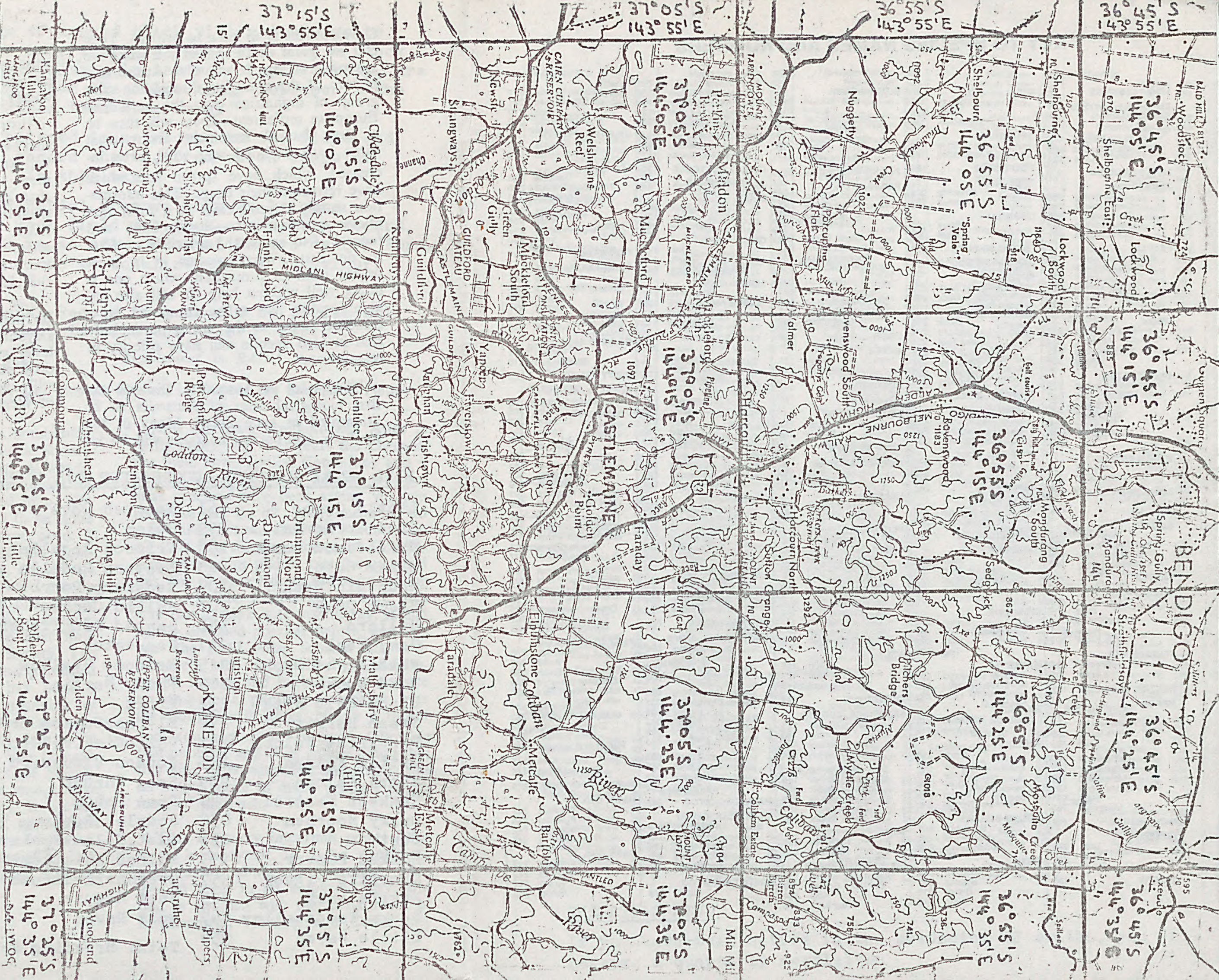
Anyone who has had even a little bit of experience atlassing will know its excitements and the enjoyment that comes with days in the bush that have a clear object and are contributing to new and fundamental knowledge. Anyone who has not yet tried atlassing is missing a treat. You need to know nothing to start and will be amazed that learning is such fun.

Let me just ask two things of you. Be patient with the overworked staff at Dryburgh Street who will answer your letter as soon as they possibly can. And do look for nests; the willie wagtail has still only been recorded breeding in six of Western Australia's grid blocks.

Stephen Davies,
President. RAOU.

BIRD ATLAS NESTING RECORDS FOR THE 1° BLOCK 37°30' S. 144°30' E

Little Grebe	061	Spotted Dove	989	Jacky Winter	377
Pied Cormorant	099	Galah	273	Restless Flycatcher	369
Whitefaced Heron	188	Crimson Rosella	282	Willie Wagtail	364
Black Swan	203	Eastern Rosella	288	Clam Reed Warbler	524
Mountain Duck	207	Red-rump Parrot	295	Superb Blue Wren	529
Black Duck	208	Pallid Cuckoo	337	White-br Scrub Wren	488
Mallard	948	Sacred Kingfisher	326	Weebill	465
Grey Teal	211	Bee-eater	329	Brown Thornbill	475
White-eyed Duck	215	Welcome Swallow	357	Yel-rump Thornbill	486
Wood Duck	202	Fairy Martin	360	Red Wattlebird	638
Black-shld Kite	232	Pipit	647	Yellface H/eater	614
Swamp Harrier	219	Bl-face Cuckoo Shrike	424	Wh-plume H/eater	625
Peregrine Falcon	237	White Wing Triller	430	Wh-naped H/eater	578
Little Falcon	235	Common Blackbird	991	New Hllnd H/eater	631
Brown Falcon	239	Song Thrush	992	Spotd Pardalote	565
Nankeen Kestrel	240	Rose Robin	384	Striated Pardal	976
Dusky Moorhen	056	Scarlet Robin	380	Silvereye	574
Coot	059	East. Yellow Robin	392	Goldfinch	996
Masked Plover	133	Rufous Whistler	401	House Sparrow	995
Domestic Pigeon	957	Grey Shrike Thrush	408	Common Starling	999
Magpie Lark	415	Aust Magpie	705	Common Myna	998
Dusky Woodswallow	547	Aust Raven	930	Wh-wing Chough	693
Little Raven	954	Total Breeding Records: 67			



THE CASTLEMAINE GRID

The numbers in each grid refer to the latitude (degrees and minutes south of the equator) and longitude (degrees and minutes east of Greenwich) of the centre of each block.

e.g. Chewton is 37° 05' S and 144° 15' east.

Note that the Grid system is the same as that used for the Club records, but that the numbering system is different.

BHL



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KEY TO SPECIES NAMES AND NUMBERS

NON-PASSERINE		IBIS		BUTTON-QUAIL		Sharp-tailed Spiper		Long-billed Corelia	
EMU	001	Glossy	178	Red-backed	013	Pectoral Spiper	978	Little Corelia	271
CASSOWARY	002	White	179	Painted	014	Red-necked Stint	162	Pink	270
GREBE		Straw-necked	180	Chestnut-backed	015	Long-toed Stint	965	Sulphur-crested	269
Great Crested	060	SPOONBILL		Buff-breasted	016	ORIENTAL PARROT		ORIENTAL PARROT	
Hoary-headed	062	Royal	181	Black-breasted	017	Curlew Spiper	161	Eclectus	275
Little	061	Yellow-billed	182	Little	018	Sanderling	166	Red-cheeked	276
LITTLE PENGUIN	005	PIED GOOSE		Red-chested	019	Broad-billed Spiper	167	LORIKEET	
ALBATROSS		TREE-DUCK		PLAINS-WANDERER		ORIENT PRATCOLE	172	Rainbow	254
Wandering	086	Whistling	204	RAIL	020	AUST PRATINCOLE	173	Red-collared	255
Black-browed	088	Plumed	205	Land	046	SKUA		Scaly-breasted	256
Grey-headed	090	SWAN		Water	045	Great	980	Varied	257
Yellow-nosed	089	Black	203	Chestnut	047	Arctic	128	Musk	258
White-capped	091	Mute	906	Red-necked	048	Pomarine	945	Purple-crowned	259
PETREL		FRECKLED DUCK		Marsh Crake	050	GULL		Little	260
South Giant-petrel	929	CAP BARRN GOOSE		Spotted Crake	049	Silver	125	FIG-PARROT	261
North Giant-petrel	937	SHELDUCK		Spotless Crake	051	Pacific	126	LONG-TAIL PARROT	
Cape	080	DABBLING DUCK		White-browed Crake	052	South Black-back	981	King	281
Great-winged	075	Black	208	Bush-hen	053	TERN		Red-winged	280
White-headed	077	Mountain Duck	207	Tasman Nativehen	054	Whiskered	110	Superb	277
Gould	078	Burdekin Duck	206	Blacktail Nativehen	055	White-winged Black	109	Regent	278
PRION		COOT		Dusky Moorhen	056	Gull-billed	111	Princess	279
Medium-billed	941	Mallard	948	Swampen	058	Caspian	112	Cockatiel	274
Antarctic	084	Grey Teal	211	CRANE		Common	953	GROUND PARROT	
Slender-billed	942	Chestnut Teal	210	Brolga	177	Arctic	952	Swamp	311
Fairy	083	Shoveller	212	Sarus	898	Roseate	113	Budgerygah	310
SHEARWATER		Garganey	209	BUSTARD		White-fronted	114	SWIFT PARROT	309
Flesh-footed	072	Pink-eared	213	LOTUSBIRD		Black-naped	119	ROSELLA, ALLIES	
Wedge-tailed	069	WHITE-EYED DUCK		STONE-CURLEW		Sooty	120	Red-capped Parrot	290
Sooty	070	PERCHING DUCK		Bush	174	Bridled	121	Green	285
Short-tailed	071	Wood Duck	202	Beach	175	Little	117	Crimson	282
Fluttering	068	White Pygmygoose	200	PAINTED SNIPE		Fairy	118	Yellow	284
Hutton's	913	Green Pygmygoose	201	OYSTERCATCHER		Crested	115	Adelaide	283
Little	067	STIFF-TAIL DUCK		Pied	130	Lesser Crested	116	Eastern	288
STORM-PETREL		Blue-billed	216	Sooty	131	NODDY		Pale-headed	286
Wilson's	063	Musk	217	LAPWING		Common	122	Northern	287
White-faced	065	OSPREY		Masked Plover	133	Lesser	123	Western	289
COMMON DIVINGPET		SMALL KITE		Banded Plover	135	White-capped	124	Mallee Ringneck	291
PELICAN		Black-shouldered	232	PLOVER, DOTTEREL		FRUIT-PIGEON		Port Lincoln Parrot	294
GANNET		Letter-winged	233	Grey Plover	136	Black-banded	024	Red-rumped Parrot	295
Australian	104	CRESTED HAWK		East Golden Plover	137	Purple-crowned	023	Many-colour Parrot	296
Red-foot Booby	103	TRUE KITE		Red-kneed Dott	132	Red-crowned	021	Golden-shldr Parrot	300
Masked Booby	105	Black	229	Hooded Dott	138	Wompoo	025	Hooded Parrot	301
Brown Booby	102	Square-tailed	230	Mongolian Dott	139	Torres Strait	026	Blue Bonnet	297
DARTER		Black-breasted	231	Double-banded Dott	140	Topknot	027	Bourke's Parrot	304
CORMORANT		Brahminy	227	Large-billed Dott	141	TYPICAL PIGEON		Blue-winged Parrot	306
Black-faced	098	Whistling	228	Oriental Dott	142	White-headed	028	Elegant Parrot	307
Pied	099	GOSHAWK		Red-capped Dott	143	Domestic	957	Rock Parrot	308
Little Pied	100	Brown	221	Black-fronted Dott	144	Spotted Dove	989	Orange-bell Parrot	305
Black	096	Sparrowhawk	222	Australian Dott	145	Laughing Dove	988	Turquoise Parrot	302
Little Black	097	Grey	220	STILT		BROWN PIGEON		Scarlet-br Parrot	303
FRIGATEBIRD		Red	223	Pied	146	BRONZEWING, DOVE		PARASITIC CUCKOO	
Greater	094	EAGLE		Banded	147	Peaceful Dove	030	Oriental	336
Lesser	095	Wh-br Sea-eagle	226	Avocet	148	Diamond Dove	031	Pallid	337
REDTAIL TROPICBD		Wedge-tailed	224	TURNSTONE		Bar-shoulder Dove	032	Brush	339
HERON		Little	225	SANDPIPER, CURLEW		Emerald Dove	033	Chestnut-breasted	340
Great-billed	184	HARRIER		Eastern Curlew	149	Comm Bronzewing	034	Fan-tailed	338
White-necked	189	Spotted	218	Whimbrel	150	Brush Bronzewing	035	Black-eared	341
White-faced	188	Swamp	219	Little Whimbrel	151	Flock Pigeon	036	Rufous-tail Bronze-	342
Pied	190	FALCON		Wood Spiper	154	Crested Pigeon	043	Shining Bronze-	344
Cattle Egret	977	Black	238	Grey-tailed Tattler	155	Squatter Pigeon	039	Little Bronze-	345
Large Egret	187	Peregrine	237	Wandering Tattler	156	Partridge Pigeon	040	Rufous-brst Bronze-	346
Little Egret	185	Little	235	Common Spiper	157	White-quill Rock	037	Indian Koel	347
Plumed Egret	186	Grey	236	Greenshank	158	Chsnt-quill Rock	038	Channel-billed	348
Reef	191	Brown	239	Marsh Spiper	159	Spinifex Pigeon	042	PHEASANT COUCAL	349
Mangrove	193	Nankeen Kestrel	240	Terek Spiper	160	Wonga Pigeon	044	HAWK OWL	
NIGHT-HERON		MOUND-BUILDER		SNIPE		PALM COCKATOO		Rufous	247
BITTERN		Scrubfowl	006	Japanese	168	BLACK COCKATOO		Powerful	248
Little	195	Malleefowl	007	Chinese	169	Red-tailed	264	Boobook	242
Black	196	Brush-turkey	008	GODWIT, SANDPIPER		Glossy	265	Barking	246
Brown	197	QUAIL		Black-tailed Godwit	152	White-tailed	266	BARN OWL	
JABIRU		Stubble	009	Bar-tailed Godwit	153	Yellow-tailed	267	Barn	249
		Swamp	011	Knot	164	Gang-gang	268	Masked	250
		Brown	010	Great Knot	165	WHITE COCKATOO		Grass	252
		King	012			Galah	273	Sooty	253

FROGMOUTH		Mangrove Robin	388	Lavender-flanked	862	Bell Miner	633	SPARROW	
Tawny	313	White-breast Robin	387	Red-winged	538	Noisy Miner	634	House	995
Papuan	316	East Yellow Robin	392	White-winged	535	Yellow-thrt Miner	635	Tree	994
Marbled	314	West Yellow Robin	394	Red-backed	541	Black-eared Miner	967		
OWLET-NIGHTJAR	317	Pale-yellow Robin	396	Rufscrwn Emuwrn	528	Macleay's	615	AUSTRALIAN FINCH	
NIGHTJAR		White-faced Robin	397	Southn Emuwrn	526	Tawny-breasted	629	Red-brow Firetail	662
White-throated	330	White-browed Robin	390	Black Grasswrn	518	Lewin's	605	Beautiful Firetail	650
Spotted	331	Grey-head Robin	389	White-thr Grasswrn	516	Yellow-spotted	606	Red-eared Firetail	651
Large-tailed	332	Shrike-tit	416	Carpntrn Grasswrn	517	Graceful	612	Painted Firetail	654
GREY SWIFTLET	333	Olive Whstlr	405	Striated Grasswrn	513	White-lined	607	Diamond Firetail	652
SPINE-TAIL SWIFT	334	Red-lored Whstlr	402	Eyrean Grasswrn	515	Yellow-faced	614	Star	663
FORK-TAIL SWIFT	335	Gilbert's Whstlr	403	Grey Grasswrn	871	Bridled	611	Crimson	664
KINGFISHER		Golden Whstlr	398	Thick-bl Grasswrn	512	Singing	608	Zebra	653
Azure	319	Mang Gold Whstlr	400	Dusky Grasswrn	511	Varied	609	Double-barred	655
Little	320	Grey Whstlr	406	BRISTLEBIRD		Mangrove	610	Masked	669
TREE KINGFISHER		Rufous Whstlr	401	Eastern	519	White-gaped	628	Long-tailed	666
Kookaburra	322	White-brst Whstlr	404	Western	520	Yellow	626	Black-throated	667
Bl-wing Kookaburra	323	Rufous Shthrush	413	Rufous	521	White-eared	617	Plum-headed	661
Forest	324	Bower's Shthrush	414	AUST WARBLER		Yellow-throated	616	Pictorella Mannikn	659
Red-backed	325	Sandstone Shthrush	411	Pilotbird	506	Yellow-tufted	619	Chsntbrs Mannikn	657
Sacred	326	Grey Shthrush	408	Rock Warbler	505	Purple-gaped	620	Yllwrump Mannikn	658
Mangrove	327	Crested Bellbird	419	Aust Fernwren	496	Grey-headed	621	Nutmeg Mannikn	983
Yellow-billed	321	Yellow-ft Flyctchr	395	Atherton Scrbrwn	946	Yellow-plumed	622	Blue-faced	660
White-tailed	328	Lemon-br Flyctchr	379	Largebill Scrbrwn	494	Grey-fronted	623	Gouldian	670
BEE-EATER	329	Brown-tl Flyctchr	378	Yellow-thr Scrbrwn	493	Fuscous	613	STARLING	
DOLLARBIRD	318	Jacky Winter	377	Tropical Scrbrwn	490	Yellow-tinted	624	Metallic	674
PASSERINE		MONARCH, FANTAIL		White-br Scrbrwn	488	White-plumed	625	Common	999
PITTA		Broadbill Flyctchr	367	Scrubtit	487	Black-chinned	580	Common Myna	998
Red-bellied	353	Leaden Flycatchr	365	Chsntmp Hylacola	498	Strong-billed	582	ORIOLE	
Noisy	352	Satin Flyctchr	366	Shy Hylacola	499	Brown-headed	583	Yellow	672
Rainbow	354	Shining Flyctchr	372	Redthroat	497	White-throated	579	Olive-backed	671
LYREBIRD		Restless Flyctchr	369	Fieldwren	500	White-naped	578	Green Figbrd	432
Albert's	351	Yellow-br Boatbill	368	Speckled Warbler	504	Black-headed	584	SPANGLED DRONGO	673
Superb	350	Blackface Monarch	373	Weebill	465	Green-backed	604	BOWERBIRD	
SCRUB-BIRD		Blackwing Monarch	374	Brown Warbler	454	Brown	597	Golden	685
Rufous	355	Spectacled Monarch	375	Large-bill Warbler	457	White-streaked	627	Satin	679
Noisy	356	White-ear Monarch	376	Dusky Warbler	461	Painted	598	Aust Regentbrd	684
LARK		Friiled Monarch	371	Mangrove Warbler	460	Crescent	630	Spotted	680
Singing Bushlark	648	Pied Monarch	370	Western Warbler	463	New Holland	631	Great	683
Common Skylark	993	Rufous Fantail	362	Greenback Warbler	458	White-cheeked	632	Fawn-breasted	682
SWALLOW		Grey Fantail	361	Fairy Warbler	456	White-fronted	594	Toothbill Catbird	678
White-backed	358	Northern Fantail	363	White-thr Warbler	453	Tawny-crowned	593	Spotted Catbird	677
Barn	879	Willie Wagtail	364	Mountain Thrnbill	474	Brown-backed	595	Green Catbird	676
Welcome	357	QUAIL-THR, ALLIES		Brown Thrnbill	475	Bar-breasted	596	RIFLEBIRD	
Tree Martin	359	Spine-tl Chowchla	434	Broad-tail Thrnbill	476	Rufous-banded	600	Paradise	686
Fairy Martin	360	North Chowchilla	435	Tasmanian Thrnbill	473	Rufous-throated	601	Victoria's	687
RICHARD'S PIPIT	647	Eastern Whipbird	421	Chsntmp Thrnbill	481	Grey	599	Magnificent	688
CUCKOO-SHRIKE		Western Whipbird	422	Slate-back Thrnbill	480	Eastern Spinebill	591	Trumpet Manucode	689
Black-faced	424	Chirp Wedgebill	866	Western Thrnbill	472	Western Spinebill	592	MUD-NESTER	
Yellow-eyed	428	Chime Wedgebill	865	Buffrump Thrnbill	484	Banded	588	Whitewing Chough	693
White-bellied	425	Spotted Quailth	436	Samphire Thrnbill	482	Black	589	Apostlebird	675
Cicadabird	429	Chestnut Quailth	437	Yellowrump Thrnbill	486	Pied	602	MAGPIE LARK	415
Ground	423	Nullarbor Quailth	440	Yellow Thrnbill	471	Dusky	590	WOODSWALLOW	
White-wing Triller	430	BABBLER		Striated Thrnbill	470	Red-headed	587	White-breasted	543
Varied Triller	431	Grey-crowned	443	Southn Whiteface	466	Scarlet	586	Masked	544
REDWHISK BULBUL	990	White-browed	445	Chsntbrst Wface	468	CHAT		White-browed	545
THRUSH		Chestnut-crowned	446	Banded Whiteface	469	Crimson	449	Black-faced	546
Scaly	447	OLD-WLD WARBLER		VARIED SITTELLA	549	Orange	450	Dusky	547
Common Blackbird	991	Clam Reed Warbler	524	TREECREEPER		Yellow	451	Little	548
Song	992	Tawny Grassbird	523	Little	559	White-fronted	448	BUTCHERBIRD	
ROBIN, WHISTLER		Little Grassbird	522	White-throated	558	Gibberbird	452	Black	701
North Scrub-robin	442	Spinifexbird	507	Red-browed	560	OLIVEBACK SUNBIRD	572	Grey	702
South Scrub-robin	441	Zitting Cisticola	969	White-browed	561	MISTLETOEBIRD	564	Pied	700
Rose Robin	384	Gold-hd Cisticola	525	Brown	555	PARDALOTE		Austrln Magpie	705
Pink Robin	383	SONGLARK		Rufous	556	Spotted	565	Pied Currawong	694
Flame Robin	382	Rufous	509	Black-tailed	562	Yellow-rumped	566	Black Currawong	696
Scarlet Robin	380	Brown	508	HONEYEATER		Forty-spotted	571	Grey Currawong	697
Red-capped Robin	381	AUST-PAPUAN WREN		Red Wattlebrd	638	Red-browed	570	CROW	
Hooded Robin	385	Purple-crowned	542	Little Wattlebrd	639	Striated	976	Australian Raven	930
Dusky Robin	386	Superb Blue	529	Spiny-cheeked	640	WHITE-EYE		Forest Raven	868
		Splendid	532	Striped	585	Pale	577	Little Raven	954
		Blue-breasted	540	Helmeted Friarbird	642	Yellow	576	Little Crow	691
		Variegated	536	Silver-cr Friarbird	644	Silveryeye	574	Torresian Crow	692
		Lovely	539	Noisy Friarbird	645	FINCH			
				Little Friarbird	646	Goldfinch	996		
				Regent	603	Greenfinch	997		
				Blue-faced	641				

THE ATLAS NEWS

If you have been active in the preceding 12 months, you will receive a quarterly newsletter

Locality: Ulladulla
Map Used: WAC 1:1,000,000
State: NSW
64 E40

Our Contact is
Dr David Peters
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